



Village of Westmont

The Progressive Village

westmont.il.gov

31 West Quincy Street • Westmont, Illinois 60559
Tel: 630-829-4400 Fax: 630-829-4426

COMMENTS REGARDING CELLULAR TOWERS

I would like to address the high school light and cellular tower issue which the Board voted on during our last meeting. As many of the Board members expressed, this was one of the most difficult decisions this Board has had to make. It was an issue which clearly divided the public. First I would like to say, whether you agree or disagree with the ultimate decision reached by this Board, that I would like to thank everyone who participated in this process. We heard articulate and well-reasoned comments on both sides of this proposal. Your participation was invaluable. Perhaps most importantly, everyone who participated did so in a respectful manner. There was no name calling. There was no interruption of speakers. Instead, there was thoughtful participation and you allowed this process to work. The people of Westmont make this Village great and your participation in this process can only lead to better, more informed decision making. So thank you again.

Second, there have been rumors circulating after this Board's decision that Ty Warner was willing to donate money to the school district for the purpose of purchasing the school lights, provided cellular towers were not installed on the school property. This very well may have been true, however, we were told that no formal offer was made nor was there any signed agreement. I feel that it is necessary to inform the public that whether or not such an offer was made, and whether or not there was a contingent plan for financing the proposed lights, that was not a matter which this Board could legally consider when making this zoning decision. In voting on variances and a special use permit, this Board must follow State statute and establish case law governing such zoning decisions. If a denial of these requests were made solely on the basis of a possible outside source of financing, the Village would likely find itself in litigation which it could not win. Therefore, I commend this Board, as always, for basing its decision on facts and established zoning law, rather than a hypothetical proposal.

William Rahn,
Mayor, Village of Westmont